

Senior Citizens to Be Guests at Theater Party

The Senior Citizens' Association will be entertained at a Christmas theater party Dec. 16 sponsored by the Metropolitan Theater Corp.

The group will attend a surprise film at the Orpheum Theater, Broadway and Ninth St., followed by an hour of games.

Chartered buses will leave the Gardena Bus Terminal, 154 St. and S. Van Ness Ave. at 7:30 a.m. Cost per person is \$1.50. For reservations contact Elsie Stone, DA 9-3770.

Doll Fete Tonight at Juvenile Hall

It's doll-party time at Juvenile Hall tonight when several hundred community leaders gather at the 21st annual pre-Christmas event to provide the children with gifts.

On display at the hall are the first contributions from business and civic organizations throughout the county. This is a sample of what is expected to grow into an avalanche of toys by this evening, as a result of months of campaigning.

State to Process Loans on Water

The state Department of Water Resources today announced it is ready to begin processing requests for water - development loans and grants under terms of an act that provides \$15,000,000 for this purpose immediately.

The act provides for loans and grants to public agencies for construction of water projects when financing cannot be obtained from other sources.

Almost half of all vehicles in California are registered in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Dope, Addicts, Pushers... What Is the Real Cause?

Ours easily could go down in history as a surface civilization, in which virtually everyone failed to view an issue from the inside out.

Instead of analyzing causes, our politicians and the audible portion of the society are content to execrate the effects.

Rather than look into a problem, they look at it. The real peril to the country lies not in deviation by a minority from a norm acceptable to the WCTU and the DAR, but in the laws that result from persons in power and in pressure groups contemplating the surface.

Because one neurotic section of the population is said to be (but not proven to be) affected by certain reading matter, a clamor goes up to permit the entire adult public only such literature and art that would fail to rouse the sensibilities of a maladjusted first-grader.

There was no so-called obscenity problem before the law. There was no drinking problem before the law proved, in one earth-shattering debacle, that it is impossible to control social conduct by legislation.

And there was no dope problem before the law. Yet politicians and heads of police agencies — more concerned that a sheep-like public one day may become imperfectly terrified of their holy position — continue to force their wearisome lucubrations into print.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who certainly has sense enough to know better, has joined the neurotic frenzy that calls for more blood, tougher laws, and maniacally screams for things like life sentences for dope peddlers.

More horrible sentences will not put the dope peddler out of business; the only thing that will go up is the price of narcotics.

In the '20s, for example, a dope user was as rare as a snuff sniffer is today. The coke or morphine fancier of that era had one reason for his addiction: to be able to concentrate on what he was doing at the moment, calmly and confidently to do his work.

There were no withdrawal pains, for there was no withdrawal. He knew his life would be shortened, but not so much as it would be by cigarettes. And there were no pushers. Today the cigarette pusher is on billboards, TV, and in most magazines.

In the past, there was no outrageous conduct, no offense by dope users. The personality that will appal a fellow man will do so without dope. This is part of the interior of the problem, but it is easier to expound at the surface.

Rather than to demand more laws and more brutal penalties, it would make more sense to seek answers from the psychiatrist and other persons with a genuine interest in the welfare of the people than to continue to act on results of exploring superficial appearances. Or do we fear their answers?

The appearance is that dope is the menace. Where it is legal, no menace exists. We have the toughest laws and the worst problems. Scratch the surface, then, and it may be discovered that dope no more makes an addict than paint makes a painting.

The pusher was created by the law.

Silver Spur Road Improvement Pact Awarded

Supervisor Burton W. Chace today announced awarding a contract for improvement of Silver Spur Road from Hawthorne Blvd. to Crenshaw Blvd. in the Palos Verdes area.

The Board of Supervisors approved Chace's recommendation that the contract be awarded to the Copp Paving Company in the amount of \$48,961.44.

The project, which will provide 20-foot paved roadways divided by a graded center section, is .8 mile in length and is scheduled for completion in January.

Chace said this realignment of Silver Spur Road connecting Crenshaw and Hawthorne will provide better access to the southern peninsula area.

GM to Start Car Output Wednesday

Buick, Oldsmobile and Pontiac divisions will start assembling passenger cars next Wednesday, John F. Gordon, president of General Motors, announced today.

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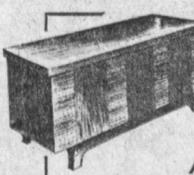
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